

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/681,771

Examiner

Kyle R. Stork

Applicant(s)

BRILL ET AL.

Art Unit

2178

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to RCE filed 20 January 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-5,7-25 and 27.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This allowance is in response to the request for continued examination filed 20 January 2006, and the amendment filed 15 December 2005.
2. Claims 1, 3-5, 7-25, and 27 are pending. Claims 1, 11, 18, 24, and 25 are independent. The rejection of claims 1, 3-5, 7-25, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. 112 has been withdrawn as necessitated by the amendment. The rejection of claims 1, 3-5, 7-25, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. 103 has been withdrawn as necessitated by the amendment.
3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Craig Fischer on 5 April 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

18. (Currently Amended) A phrasal spelling correction system for spelling correction of a phrasal string, comprising:
a general purpose computing device;
computer-executable instructions comprising program modules executable by the computing device, wherein the program modules comprise:
a segmentation module that divides the phrasal string into a plurality of segmentations, each of the plurality of segmentation containing sub-strings containing a plurality of words;

a looping comparator that performs dictionary looping to correct a segmentation by looping through a dictionary and comparing each of the sub-strings of the segmentation with entries in the dictionary to determine a closest match and a cost for each of the sub-strings and adds the cost of each sub-string to arrive at a total cost for the segmentation; and

an output string containing a corrected segmentation having the lowest total cost that represents a correct spelling of the phrasal string, wherein a sub-string having a longer length are than other sub-strings is assigned a lower cost over the other sub-strings having a shorter length, while the other sub-strings having a shorter length are assigned a higher cost.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1, 3-5, 7-25, and 27 are allowed.
5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art of record fails to disclose or have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to have spell correction of a phrasal string, wherein adding a cost for each of the substrings of a segmentation to arrive at a total cost for that segmentation allows a sub-string having a longer length than a shorter sub-string is assigned a lower cost while the shorter substring is assigned a higher cost.

Conclusion

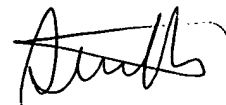
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kyle R. Stork whose telephone number is (571) 272-4130. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:00-4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Hong can be reached on (571) 272-4124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kyle Stork
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2178

hrs



STEPHEN HONG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER